

Submitter: Steph Spencer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

HB 4134 provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. This bill would secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon's economy. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.

State leadership is especially important right now. As federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are reduced, Oregon has an opportunity, as well as a responsibility, to step forward and invest in its natural legacy.

HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. Passing this bill for Oregon will set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, improve some of the valuable ecology that has been lost due to industrialized logging/fishing/polution, as well as reduce wildfire risk by restoring wetlands/meadows/beaver habitat. This funding and legislation will support wildlife stewardship, and ensure that our state sustains and improves healthy ecosystems.

I am 100% insupport of HB 4134.